AMENDMENTS

1. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of the ion exchanger of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2 (presently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

a. encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
b. hybridizes ~~under highly stringent conditions~~ to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

3.(original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

4.(original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

5. (previously presented) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.

6. (previously presented) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

7. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 5.

8. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 6.

9. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 wherein said nucleic acid sequence is that of SEQ ID NO:3.